

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EA-07 ISO-00 EUR-12 ERDA-05 CIAE-00

H-01 INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01

PM-04 PRS-01 SAJ-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00

DODE-00 NSC-05 NRC-05 /108 W

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R 071140Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9020

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY PEKING

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, MUNC, PFOR, PINT, BR, AR

SUBJECT: ARGENTINE, CHINESE AMBASSADORS COMMENT ON NON-PROLIFERATION
CONTROVERSY

REF: BRASILIA 9859 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY - A STUDY ON NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION WRITTEN BY TWO
AMERICAN ACADEMICS CAUSED A STIR IN LATE NOVEMBER AND GAVE
THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK PUBLICLY
ABOUT A PROBABLE BILATERAL NUCLEAR AGREEMENT BETWEEN BRAZIL
AND ARGENTINA. END SUMMARY

2. A UPI STORY DATED WASHINGTON REPORTED THAT TWO RESEARCH-
ERS FOR THE COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, ANDREW J. PIERRE AND
CLAUDIA W. MOYNE, HAD JUST PUBLISHED A STUDY ENTITLED "NUCLEAR
PROLIFERATION - A STRATEGY FOR THE CONTINENT." ACCORDING TO
THE UPI STORY, PIERRE AND MOYNE DESCRIBED ARGENTINA AS HAVING
WELL TRAINED SCIENTISTS AND BEING CAPABLE OF PRODUCING ATOMIC
WEAPONS. THE AMERICAN RESEARCHERS REPORTEDLY CONCLUDED THAT
BRAZIL AND ARGENTINA WERE WATCHING EACH OTHER CLOSELY AND IF
ONE SIDE SHOWED AN INCLINATION TO PRODUCE ATOMIC WEAPONS THE
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OTHER WOULD QUICKLY MOVE IN THE SAME DIRECTION. A MISCALCU-

LATION BY EITHER COUNTRY COULD PRECIPITATE A NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS RACE. THE STUDY MENTIONS THE NUCLEAR AGREEMENT BETWEEN BRAZIL AND WEST GERMANY AND REPORTEDLY CONCLUDES THAT "IT WILL HELP BRAZIL TO SATISFY ITS GROWING ENERGY NEEDS FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE."

3. AN INTERVIEW CARRIED IN THE PRO-GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPER CORREIO BRAZILIENSE OF NOVEMBER 21 QUOTES ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR OSCAR CAMILION AS SAYING THE STUDY IS "FANTASTIC AND UNREAL." HE ADDED: "THE SPECULATION OF THE TWO AMERICAN TECHNICIANS COULD HAVE AS ITS BASIC OBJECTIVE TO REINFORCE THE THESIS OF PRESIDENT-ELECT JIMMY CARTER AGAINST THE TRANSFER OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY FROM GERMANY TO BRAZIL. FOR THAT THEY USE MILITARY ARGUMENTS, TRYING TO IDENTIFY A CONFRONTATION THAT DOES NOT EXIST." CAMILION SAID ARGENTINA HAD TO RESIST AMERICAN PRESURES EARLY IN ITS NUCLEAR PROGRAM AND IT WAS GERMAN TECHNICIANS WHO CONSTRUCTED, NEAR BUENOS AIRES, THEIR FIRST PLANT. IN ORDER TO BE FREE OF DEPENDENCE ON ENRICHED URANIUM IMPORTED FROM THE UNITED STATES, ARGENTINA HAD EMPHASIZED THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL URANIUM REACTORS.

4. PROBABLY TO DRIVE HOME THE SIMILARITIES BETWEEN THE PRESENT BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAM AND THE EARLY PROGRAM IN ARGENTINA, CAMILION QUOTED CAPTAIN CASTRO MADERO, PRESIDENT OF ARGENTINA'S NATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION AS REFERRING TO THE "PARALLEL EFFORT OF ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL TO DEVELOP THEIR NUCLEAR POTENTIAL." THE BALANCE OF THE QUOTATION AS CARRIED IN CORREIO BRAZILIENSE RAISES AN INTERESTING PERSPECTIVE. ACCORDING TO THE AMBASSADOR, CAPTAIN CASTRO MADERO REPORTEDLY SAID: "ARGENTINE-BRAZILIAN MUTUAL COOPERATION IS INDISPENSABLE FOR THEIR OWN ENEFIT AND THAT OF THE REST OF THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA. IN THIS LINE ONE MUST INCLUDE THE NECESSITY OF A BI-NATIONAL NUCLEAR AGREEMENT." AMBASSADOR CAMILION'S COMMENTS WERE WARMLY APPLAUDED THREE DAYS LATER BY BENEDITO COUTINHO, CORREIO BRAZILIENSE'S INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COLUMNIST, WHOSE ARTICLE DID NOT, HOWEVER, PICK UP ON THE SUGGESTION FOR A NUCLEAR BILATERAL.

5. A NEWS STORY IN O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO OF DECEMBER 1 REPEATED THE CASTRO MADERO QUOTE (THIS TIME PROMOTING HIM TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ADMIRAL) AND SAID THE SUGGESTION WAS BEING STUDIED BY THE BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY. THE STORY, WHICH DID NOT MENTION AMBASSADOR CAMILION, SPECULATED THAT THE ARGENTINE AND BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTERS MIGHT DISCUSS NUCLEAR COOPERATION DURING MEETING OF PLATA BASIN FOREIGN MINISTERS IN BRASILIA, DECEMBER 7 TO 9.

6. IN A SPEECH GIVEN DECEMBER 2 IN WHICH HE CRITICISED COMMENTS

OF PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER ON THE FRG-BRAZIL NUCLEAR AGREEMENT (SEE STPTTEL NOTAL), SENATOR PAULO BROSSARD REFERRED TO ARGENTINE SUGGESTIONS FOR BILATERAL NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH BRAZIL. BROSSARD SAID THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR STERILE RIVALRIES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND INDICATED HE WAS WELL DISPOSED TO THE SUGGESTION FOR COOPERATION.

7. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, BRAZILIAN NEWSPAPERS REPORTED STATEMENTS MADE BY PRC AMBASSADOR CHANG TE CHUN WHILE IN BELO HORIZONTE ON NOVEMBER 26. ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE FRG-BRAZIL NUCLEAR AGREEMENT, AMBASSADOR CHANG MADE THE USUAL REFERENCES TO THE PEACEFUL INTENTIONS OF THE PRC AND ITS PLEDGE NOT TO MAKE FIRST USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. HE WENT ON TO SAY EACH NATION HAD THE SOVEREIGN RIGHT TO DEVELOP ITS OWN NUCLEAR INDUSTRY AND THE PRC, WITHIN ITS LIMITED CAPABILITY, WOULD BE WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH BRAZIL ON THIS. CRIMMIN
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